



# Forum on Transportation Investment

December 2004

Jim Kempton, Chairman  
Mayor Tom Dale, Vice Chair  
Steve Ahrens  
Dale Alldredge  
Steve Allred  
Ron Binggeli  
Mayor Dave Bieter  
Michael Blankenship  
Clair Bowman  
Marc Brinkmeyer  
William Brower  
Jack Buell  
Scott Burpee  
Dave Butzier  
Dave Carlson  
R. Dan Charboneau  
Mayor Lou Christensen  
Charlie Clark  
Trent Clark  
Jack Combo  
Terry Crawford  
Stuart Davis  
Mark Duffin  
John Ferguson  
Ralph Gant  
Michael Gifford  
Jane Gorsuch  
Duane Grant  
Clay Handy  
Bob Hardgrove  
Ken Harward  
Joe Haynes  
Charles Hummel  
Cecil Ingram  
Dick Jacobson  
Mayor Clay Larkin  
Ernie Lombard  
Cliff Long  
Mark Lowe  
Darrell Manning  
Monte McClure  
Steve Moreno  
Tony Poinelli  
Dixie Reid  
Dale Riedesel  
Charlie Rountree  
Jay Schweitzer  
Roger Seiber  
Jack Sibbach  
Rodger Sorenson  
Matt Stoll  
Paul Sudmeier  
Bruce Sweeney  
Bob Tippet  
J.R. VanTassel  
John Watts  
Carl Wilgus

## Panel explores Idaho's long-term transportation investment

With vehicle miles in Idaho expected to triple by the year 2020, 40 economic leaders met in Boise on September 27 to launch the Forum on Transportation Investment. The panel, which will meet several times over the next year at locations across the state, will explore the state's current funding mechanisms and new tools for investing in our transportation system.

The group, which includes some of the state's top economic leaders and strategic thinkers, opened its deliberations with a news conference that received extensive coverage. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Executive Director John Horsley addressed the panel, followed by demographics expert John Luthy.

*"Much of Idaho's future will be written by the decisions made in the next few years - decisions that are hard to make."*

*— David Ekern, ITD Director*

"Much of Idaho's future will be written by the decisions made in the next few years - decisions that are hard to make," said Idaho Transportation Department Director David Ekern. "They must be made carefully, addressing the state's transportation issues holistically and with a clear understanding of the many elements contributing to our mobility."



Left to right: Former Utah DOT Director Tom Warne, Idaho Transportation Board Chairman Chuck Winder and AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley speak at the forum news conference in September.

## Next Forum meeting will assess Idaho's current financial tools

The Forum on Transportation Investment panel will meet several times throughout the state over the next 12 months before developing a final report. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4 in Boise at the Vista Holiday Inn. At this meeting, forum members are scheduled to:

- examine Idaho's financing sources and distribution at federal, state and local levels; and
- assess Idaho's current tax structure and flow of funding.

Anyone interested in attending this or any forum meeting is welcome. Please contact ITD's Budget, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Julie Pipal, (208-334-8804 or [julie.pipal@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:julie.pipal@itd.idaho.gov)) for further details.

## Forum website launched

The Forum on Transportation Investment is now on-line, to provide updated information and provide further details on the goals and actions of the panel. Information includes meeting minutes, scheduling, Forum membership, news releases, the Forum's charter agreement and more. Simply log on to [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov) and click on the link for the Forum on Transportation Investment.

| Forum on Transportation Investment tentative 2005 schedule     |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| Meeting #2<br><i>Current financial tools</i>                   | Jan. 4   | Boise Holiday Inn,<br>3300 Vista Ave., 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. |
| Meeting #3<br><i>Transportation needs – current and future</i> | April 28 | Pocatello   |
| Meeting #4<br><i>Future finance options</i>                    | June 28  | Twin Falls  |
| Meeting #5<br><i>Idaho's long-range transportation plan</i>    | Sept. 8  | Coeur d'Alene   |
| Meeting #6<br><i>Draft recommendations</i>                     | Nov. 1   | Boise   |
| Meeting #7<br><i>Final recommendations</i>                     | Nov. 29  | Boise   |



Forum on Transportation Investment members gather for their first meeting in Boise.

## First Forum on Transportation Investment meeting generates input and action

Panel members approved their leadership for the forum at the first meeting on September 27 in Boise, and gave input on the panel's formation. The Idaho Transportation Board appointed former Idaho Representative Jim Kempton as chairman, and forum members named Nampa Mayor Tom Dale vice chairman. Following input from members, the forum was streamlined from two separate panels of policy makers and industry professionals into one panel. The decision was designed to increase the opportunity for open discussion between forum members.

## What will the Forum on Transportation Investment do?

The forum will examine highway, rail and transit issues in Idaho. The group will:

- examine, document and assess Idaho’s transportation goals through 2030 including those already documented by state and local government;
- investigate current and potential future transportation finance tools and assess their viability for Idaho;
- recommend actions and policies that will assist Idaho in achieving its future transportation vision; and
- submit a final report to the Idaho Transportation Board in November 2005.